

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

VOL. 41, NO. 4
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OPC election info is featured in this issue

A special supplement in this issue of the OPC Bulletin lists nominees for officers and board of the OPC.

The election information sheet includes the photos and biographies of the candidates.

A word of praise to the nominating committee headed by Henry Gellermann.

Ken Giniger is next up at OPC Thursday lunches

Kenneth Seeman Giniger gave us a list of a few of the world famous figures whose books he has edited and published.

The list runs from A to Z. We couldn't possibly fit it in here. But let's try every fourth name or so.

Bob Considine, Allen Dulles, Pope John XXIII, (have to skip Pope John Paul II) Frances Parkinson Keyes, David Niven, Will Oursler, Norman Vincent Peale... Well, we'll never get to Z, but you get the idea. We do have to mention Lowell Thomas. We'll let Ken name a few more at the OPC's May 8 Thursday luncheon.

Ken, long a dedicated OPCer, spends much of his time darting about the world on one publishing mission or another as president of his firm, K.S. Giniger Company. He edits the monthly *International Publishing Newsletter*, is himself an author of 11 books and has written a lot for magazines and newspapers.

What he has to say about the famous and infamous with whom he has dealt; about the world of international publishing today, and the perils of publishing, too, should make one of the most fascinating sessions yet.

We'll report in May on **Faye Gillis Wells** talk in April.

OPC Thursday Luncheon with Kenneth Seeman Giniger, noon, Thursday, May 8, Edward R. Murrow Room.

Loads laughs when Heller, Vogel tell of writing 'No Laughing Matter'



Vogel (L), Heller autographing

OPC protests newsmen jailed in Poland, Chile

The OPC has protested to the Polish and Chilean governments the imprisonment of journalists in those countries.

The OPC demanded the unconditional release of Czeslaw Bielecki, jailed in Poland since April, 1985, and of Fernando Paulsen in Chile.

Freedom of the Press Committee Co-Chairman Norman A. Schorr told Poland's prime minister, Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, and its minister of justice, Lech Domeracki, that publisher-journalist Bielecki should be released immediately.

Schorr made the same demand of Chile's president, Lt. Gen. Augusto Pinochet, interior minister, Ricardo Garcia Rodriguez, and justice minister, Hugo Rosende.

Bielecki, 38, is an architect and head of a publishing house, CDN, which produces a weekly magazine on current

The repartee between **Joseph Heller** and **Speed Vogel** sparkles with the warmth of a long and lasting friendship. They just plain josh a lot.

For an OPC Book Night audience of more than 100, they recounted the writing of *No Laughing Matter* (Putnam), Heller's first book of non-fiction, Vogel's first book, period.

The subject is deadly serious—Heller's bout with Guillain-Barre Syndrome that left him partly paralyzed for five months.

Heller, author of *Catch 22* and *God Knows*, says, during his recovery, Vogel was writing on a personal computer.

"He would come in with something that looked like a scroll from the Old Testament. I could hardly move my hands to unwind it. I had to read all these dots."

Vogel: "He was noble, courageous, never complained during the period in which it happened—and that's so uncharacteristic of him!"

Heller: "He said, 'Joe is the most wonderful patient in the world and as far as I'm concerned, he can remain that way.'"

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Heller-Vogel

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They clearly could go on all night with this kind of repartee and some wag said they almost did. But the audience—biggest OPC Book Night turnout of the year—ate it up; sounded like the canned audience laugh tapes inserted in a TV sitcom.

Proud and pleased, Heller said the book has been an unqualified success, then confessed the one chapter Vogel wrote over which they had a quarrel is the one that is most quoted, having been left in the book.

Trouble was, they more or less agreed, Vogel passed the chapter to Heller to edit twice, getting it back heavily altered each time, then wrote a note telling Heller to "take this book and shove it."

Contrite, Heller profusely apologized but warned Vogel to send him the copy only once henceforth because he rewrites his own stuff everytime he looks at it.

"When I read the book in hard cover, I wished it still were in galleys," Heller said.

The most-commented on chapter is Vogel's recitation of their 'Gourmet Club,' a literary lights group that eats out Chinese food on irregular occasion.

Where to get such fare? Heller admitted it's not generally on the menu. "You've got to have a Chinaman for a friend."

Vogel, by self-description, has been businessman, cook, artist, plumber and herring taster at Zabar's. He said he found his first experience with writing much like his sculpting and painting.

Heller said he found his first venture into non-fiction "very hard."

"It was difficult because I recognized the need to present the facts which I seldom recognize in any of my novels."

He recalled being amazed one time when interviewed by McLandish Phillips at 5 p.m. and picking up the *New York Times* that evening to read the story with "every fact correct, every paragraph the way it should be, the whole article the way it should be."

"I'm talking as a guy who takes three years to write the first three pages."

Such reporting, he said, is a "type of skill or gift or talent that was alien to my way." And he had had some "embarrassing" experiences writing factual articles including a brief venture into book reviews.

"In this book, I wanted to tell what happened. There was the need for factual accuracy and subjective meaning."

He didn't know how he did at it until reading the book in hard cover because, he said, while writing, he is totally ab-

sorbed in the task.

"When I did read the published book, I felt a tremendous sadness. There were passages when I felt like crying."

"I never felt like crying," said Vogel, later declaring, "Joe has changed. He is able to show emotions he never has shown before."

"Yeah," said Heller, "because I have to listen to you."

(laughter)

OPC Protests

From Page 1

events in Poland as well as books and audio and video tapes. Prior to his arrest, he also contributed to Solidarity's underground weekly and to the Paris-based emigre journal, *Kultura*.

Bielecki has been held without trial for more than a year on charges of plotting to overthrow the government but Schorr wrote the Polish leaders, "We believe that he is being punished solely for his writing and publishing activities."

Schorr said the OPC concurs with Amnesty International's finding that Bielecki is a prisoner of conscience. He also protested harsh treatment of Bielecki since his jailing.

Schorr said Paulsen, an editor of *Analysis* magazine and a Wall Street Journal stringer, was being held without trial in violation of Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights for "carrying out his job as a journalist."

Schorr cited an Amnesty International report that said charges against Paulsen appear to stem from an issue of *Analysis* in which the word "murderers" was printed across a photo of police officers at the site of the slayings of three Communist Party members.

Pending their release, Schorr urged Bielecki and Paulsen be accorded humane treatment, access to legal counsel and members of their families.

Peripatetic OPCer **Tom Mechling** drops note from Manila where he and colleague **Bill Steif** were doing a piece on the Carlos Romulo funeral and a series for *Gannett* on the Philippine elections.

OPCer **Jules L. Waldman**, President and Founder of the English language *Caracas Daily Journal*, has been presented Venezuela's highest decoration, Orden del Libertador, by Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi on the newspaper's 40th anniversary.

OPCers can donate to J-fund in memory of Ben Greenwald

Ben Greenwald, longtime OPCer, ex-Stars & Stripes staffer, Gaelic scholar and a teacher of journalism, died February 18 while vacationing in Florida.

Ben Greenwald's many close friends have an opportunity to support a worthy journalism cause by contributing in his memory to the Ben and Mildred Greenwald Scholarship Fund.

The fund awards scholarships to academically deserving students at New York's High School of Graphic Communications Arts where Ben Greenwald founded what is believed to be the only journalism program in the country in which high school students can major in journalism. The awards are to students who will pursue journalism in college.

Donations payable to The Ben and Mildred Greenwald Scholarship Fund may be sent to OPCer Otto Barz, who is treasurer of the fund, at 425 Broome St., New York, NY 10013.

Fritz Henle reports from his Virgin Islands home that his exhibit, "Fritz Henle's America," opens in his hometown, Heidelberg, in June. The exhibit then travels other European cities. He encloses a new Rolleiflex brochure hailing Henle, 77, who has used twin-lens Rolleis since 1930 as "one of the great pioneers of photography."

Barney Oldfield and wife, Vada, send holiday greetings and note they marked their 50th anniversary on the Mississippi Queen as Barney, 76, judged Great Steamboat Race; also that he has been twice to Moscow, presenting a microwave oven for sponsor, Litton, to the Gorbachevs on one trip. Says Barney, "I'm still on a roll."

OPCer **Norma Lee** is publisher of *P.R. Clock* which lists communications community events free of charge. Contact P.R. Clock, Suite 95, 50 E. 41 St., NYC 10017. Phone: (212) 725-8330.

Mary Tannenbaum, whose "My Chinese San Francisco" is featured article in Book Club of California newsletter, wrote *Christian Science Monitor* essay, "The Giving Tree," on a book she sent her Taiwan translator's 9-year-old son which moved the boy to write his reactions. And they were published in *Central Daily News* there.

Talbert's tales should make a fantastic flick

The adventures of Ansel Talbert clearly deserve a film—an epic film.

Talbert, busy as ever, took time to tell the OPC's Thursday Luncheon just a few, with less talk of his experiences on the polar ice caps than of the intrigue preceding and during World War II.

Much of his career has been linked to explorations and to aviation. Today he is executive editor of *Air Cargo News International* and is enthusiastic about the tremendous growth in the field it covers. He's busy writing, too. Returned recently from doing a story in West Germany and Scandinavia.

But he fondly recalls the days as a correspondent for the late, great *New York Herald-Tribune*. Take his first foreign assignment in the summer of '39 (maybe it's trite but we'll say it) as war clouds gathered. In just 10 days (so help us, he even remembers the dates: June 25-July 4), Talbert:

- Interviewed Benito Mussolini
- Visited the Duke and Duchess of Windsor
- Got himself aboard the Pan Am Clipper which inaugurated east to west Trans-Atlantic air service.

Past OPC Vice President Talbert remembers the late Inez Robb, who also was an OPC vice president, reported in her page one *New York Daily News* story on the flight that Talbert was "the first young man in history to thumb his way over the Atlantic Ocean."

Question: What did Winston Churchill call "MSS—my most secret source"?

ULTRA, the outfit Talbert headed in Europe during the war under Gen. Jimmy Doolittle, hero of the Tokyo raid. But what was ULTRA?

Talbert, whose fellow OPCers call him Ed or Ned, explains: "The ULTRA project, equalled in security level only by the atom bomb, involved breaking the highest level codes which the Nazis were certain could not be broke."

Talbert was pretty proud of ULTRA. Reporting to Supreme Headquarters after the Nazi surrender he wrote, "Having ULTRA was like being able to read the correspondence of the German General staff on an almost daily basis."

Dwight D. Eisenhower called it "a decisive factor in winning the war."

Talbert would rather talk of his big beats—and did.

Just before the war there was his expose of "an elusive and shady character named Dr. Kurt Rieth who was called by the U.S. Justice Department 'the number one Nazi in the Western Hemisphere.'"

And there were his exposes about the Vichy Embassy in Washington—Armand Gregoire, who traipsed around in uniform

with swastikas, Dr. Gerhard Alois Westrick, who hung out in Manhattan at the Plaza.

Talbert told a lot more about these endeavors with hardly time to mention how he was one of the first (after Admiral Byrd) to fly over both North and South Poles, or how he and 10 Air Force volunteers plus Poncho, an Alaskan husky, floated to the North Pole on an ice island.

He has a few medals. We might mention the French Legion of Honor, rank of Chevalier. Others are U.S., Brazil and Yugoslavia.

OPC's First Thursday Lunchers heard it all from the man himself. We'd like to be first to read the memoirs. Like we said, what a great adventure flick it would make.



Anthea Disney

Anthea Disney, newly named *New York Daily News*' deputy managing editor/Sunday, responsible for entire Sunday paper came to the United States in '74 as correspondent in *London Daily Mail* New York bureau, later became bureau chief, then columnist for *London Daily Express*. Rise at Daily News has been meteoric. She started there in '84.

OPC Bulletin obit on Will Yolen brings response from William Pages, United Jewish Federation public information director, recalling accompanying Yolen on three-week Mideast tour after Yom-Kippur War when Pages was covering Mideast politics. He tells of Yolen's "good natured view of things and his ability to keep from over dramatizing that which my colleagues and I invariably saw as the most sensational this or that ever... I am glad I knew him."

Peoplers

Flora Lewis, *New York Times* foreign affairs columnist, thrice an OPC Awards winner, adds a laurel: National Press Club's Fourth Estate Award for "lifetime of contributions to American journalism."

Nino Lo Bello has fifth book, *Nino Lo Bello's Guide To Offbeat Europe* published by Chicago Review Press, adopted also by Quality Paperback Book Club. OPCer Nino reports from Vienna base he looks forward to "toe-dancing to the bank with pirouettes." Book details Europe's oddball travel sites. Also noted, Nino's Oct. 5 *Editor & Publisher* piece on Aachen's Newspaper Museum's collection of 120,000 different newspapers. This item runs long 'cause of Nino's kind words for our OPC Bulletin efforts.

OPCer Frank Jay, editor of IEEE, and wife, Jayne, ITL medical writer, back from Frankfurt, Heidelberg and river Rhine trip by way of St. Louis, Chicago, to pose question: How do people harvest grapes in vineyards on vertical cliffs overhanging the Rhine? Errr... You tell us, Frank.

When OPC Bulletin co-editor Fred Ferguson was on *Pacific Stars & Stripes* some 30-odd years ago and Ernie Hoberecht headed UP for the Pacific and Asia, he one night sent Ferguson and a buddy back to barracks from the Tokyo Foreign Press Club in his chauffeured limousine in time to make bed check. Picture the disconcerted stare of the guard at the barracks gate. It is one fond recollection of the ebullient Hoberecht, whose efforts expanded UP and UPI business throughout Asia from the '40s through the '60s. Thus we're delighted to hear from Al Kaff that Hoberecht has passed along our OPC Bulletin piece on UPI's greatest asset, its staffers, in his own newsletter entitled, *The Junk Mail* to friends at home and abroad.

Julia Edwards writes from Washington that we'd have been far better informed on the great journalism career of Fay Wells when referred to her only as an aviatrix in the January Bulletin if we had read her manuscript, "Women of the World, The Great Foreign Correspondents," and suggests, "Find me a publisher and read all about it."

De Witt S. Davidson is one of the OPC stalwarts who howled about our Bill (not Bob) Pearsall obit errors but kindly adds by card from Albuquerque, "Otherwise, cheers for the Bulletin." He says it "helps me to keep in touch from this southwestern desert outpost."

Exhibit OPC Awards pix this month; Navy's war painting shown in May

The OPC's Annual Photo-Journalism Awards today rank preeminent among overseas originated photo-journalism awards granted in this country.

A selection of this year's entries is on display in the OPC Gallery through May 3. Winners will have been announced by the time you receive this newsletter.

Charles Rotkin, OPC Photo Awards Committee chairman, organizer of our monthly exhibits, calls the photos entered "the best work of the finest photo-journalists published in 1985."

We'll detail all the awards and the exciting events of the OPC Awards dinner in the May issue, our April issue deadline having preceded the dinner.

Opening May 5 in the OPC Gallery will be an exhibit of paintings from the U.S. Navy's Combat Art Collection.

Sponsored by the Overseas Yacht Club, that exhibit marks the 75th anniversary of Naval Aviation.

A part of that celebration, incidentally will be a replication of the first trans-oceanic flight made in 1919 by an NC-4 from Far Rockaway, N.Y., to Plymouth, England. The route is to be retraced by a vintage PBY Catalina departing May 8.

Max Gendel reports from Tel Aviv the government press office has gone to computers and terminals with equipment donated by local hi-tech industries with system including terminal access for the visiting journalists center, links to ministries, etc.

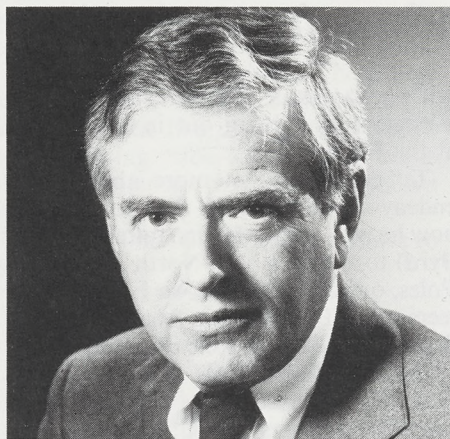
OPC's **Charles Gillett**, New York Visitors Bureau chief, is featured in Crain's New York Business special section on Meetings & Conventions.

Agate Advertisements

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Apartment for rent on monthly basis. Large living room, large bathroom, small kitchenette. Fully furnished. Full hotel service, including room service from famous Laurent Res., daily linens. Splendid building—The Lombardy, 111 E. 56th St., Apartment 411—\$3,750. Call Mr. Maglio (212) 753-8600.

Start-up publishing venture serving U.S. business leaders is looking for stringers worldwide to help report on international business issues. For information, contact Anthony M. Reid, Editor, Geoinfo Corporation, 1200 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA.



James A. Baar

OPC'er **James A. Baar** has joined Washington-based Gray and Company Public Communications International as senior vice president-general manager of its new New York office. Baar leaves vice president-communications slot at Computervision, Bedford, Mass., to join Gray. He was a *UPI* Washington correspondent and senior editor of *Missiles and Rockets* magazine before getting into PR. He has been Hill and Knowlton senior v.p. and Craemer Dickson Basford-New England president. He is author of four non-fiction books and a novel, too.

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Wanted: News of OPCers

For an even newsier OPC Bulletin, tell us where you are, how you are and what you are doing. And let us know how we might improve The Bulletin.

Reminder

Material for the bulletin must be received in the OPC Office by the 14th of the month preceding publication.